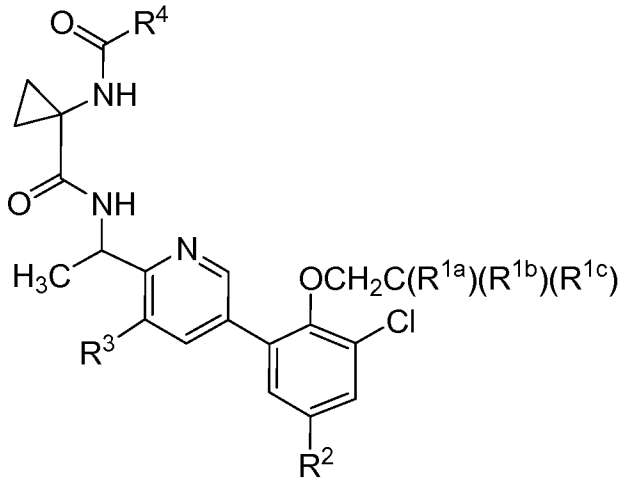
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of formula I and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



I

wherein

R^{1a}, R^{1b} and R^{1c} are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluorine;

R^2 is hydrogen or chlorine;

R^3 is chlorine or fluorine; and

R^4 is selected from (1) C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, OR^a, SR^a, COR^a, SO_2R^d, CO_2R^a, $OC(O)R^a$, NR^bR^c, $NR^bC(O)R^a$, $NR^bC(O)_2R^a$, $C(O)NR^bR^c$, and C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, (2) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano and phenyl, (3) aryl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, OR^a, SR^a, $C(O)_2R^a$, C_{1-4} alkyl and C_{1-3} haloalkyl, wherein aryl is selected from phenyl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl and naphthyl, and (5) heterocycle optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, nitro, cyano,

OR^a, SR^a, C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with OR^a, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, phenyl and C_{1-3} haloalkyl wherein said heterocycle is selected from (a) a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring having a ring heteroatom selected from N, O and S, and optionally having up to 3 additional ring nitrogen atoms; (b) a 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 3 ring nitrogen atoms and N-oxides thereof; and (c) a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic heterocyclic ring selected from tetrahydrofuranyl, 5-oxotetrahydrofuranyl, 2-oxo-2H-pyranyl, 2-pyrrolidinone, and 6-oxo-1,6-dihydropyridazinyl;

R^a is selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, (3) phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and (5) pyridyl;

R^b and R^c are independently selected from (1) hydrogen, (2) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 groups independently selected from halogen, amino, mono-C_{1-4}alkylamino, di-C_{1-4}alkylamino, and SO_2R^d, (3) $(CH_2)_k$-phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and (4) C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or

R^b and R^c together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4-, 5-, or 6-membered ring optionally containing an additional heteroatom selected from N, O, and S; or

R^b and R^c together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a cyclic imide;

R^d is selected from (1) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogen atoms, (2) C_{1-4} alkyloxy, and (3) phenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from halogen, cyano, nitro, OH, C_{1-4} alkyloxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl and C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

k is 0, 1 or 2;

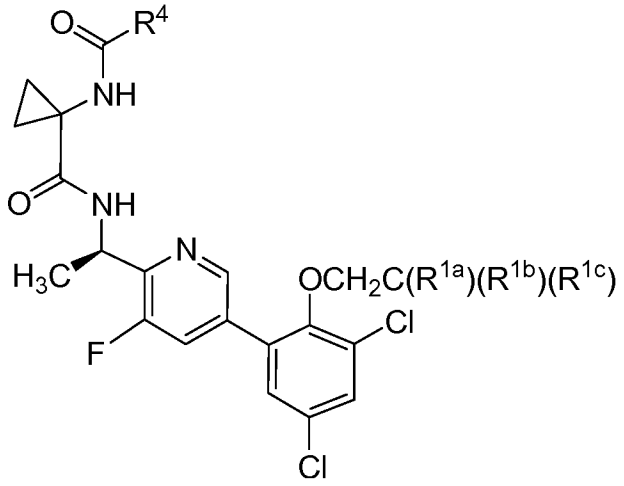
with the proviso that when R^4 is trifluoromethyl or unsubstituted isoxazolyl, R^3 is fluorine.

2. (original) A compound of Claim 1 wherein $C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$ is selected from CH_3, CF_2H and CF_3.

3. (original) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted 5-membered heteroaromatic ring having a ring heteroatom selected from N, O and S, and optionally having up to 3 additional ring nitrogen atoms, wherein said substituent is 1 to 2 groups independently selected from halogen, OR^a, C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted with OR^a, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, phenyl and C_{1-3} haloalkyl.

4. (original) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^4 is an optionally substituted 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 3 ring nitrogen atoms and N-oxides thereof, wherein said substituent is 1 to 2 groups independently selected from halogen and C_{1-4} alkyl.

5. (original) A compound of Claim 1 having the formula Ia and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



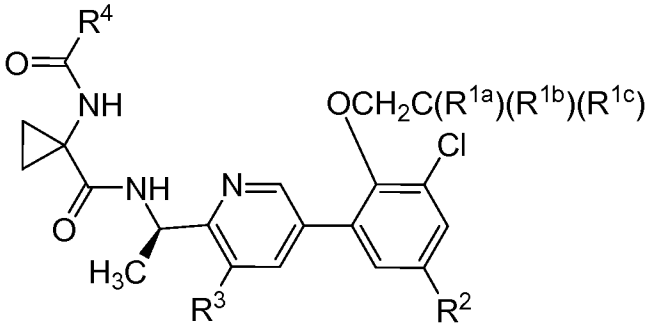
Ia

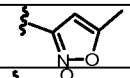
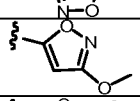
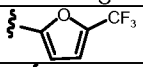
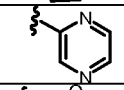
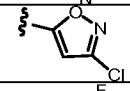
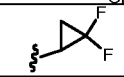
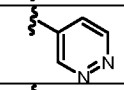
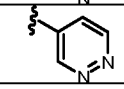
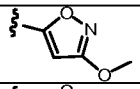
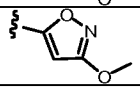
wherein R^{1a}, R^{1b} and R^{1c} are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluorine;
R^4 is (a) optionally substituted 5-membered heteroaromatic ring having a ring heteroatom selected from N, O and S, and optionally having up to 3 additional ring nitrogen atoms; or (b) optionally substituted 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 3 ring nitrogen atoms and N-oxides thereof; wherein the substitutent is 1 to 2 groups independently selected from halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, hydroxy, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and CF_3.

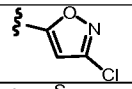
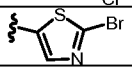
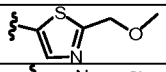
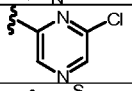
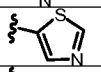
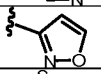
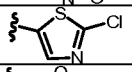
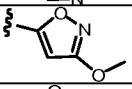
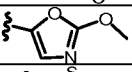
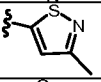
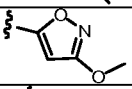
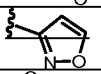
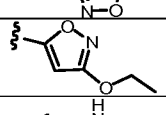
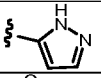
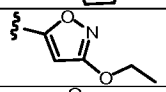
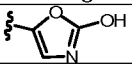
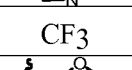
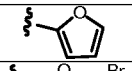
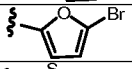
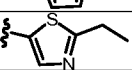
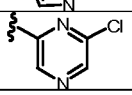
6. (original) A compound of Claim 5 wherein R^4 is selected from optionally substituted isoxazolyl, optionally substituted oxazolyl, optionally substituted isothiazolyl, optionally substituted thiazolyl, optionally substituted pyridazinyl and optionally substituted pyrazinyl, wherein the substituent is 1 to 2 groups selected from halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, hydroxy, and CF_3.

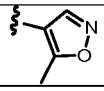
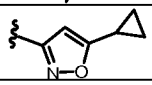
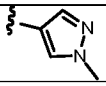
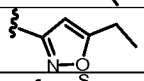
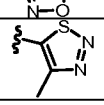
7. (original) A compound of Claim 5 wherein R^4 is selected from 3-chloro-5-isoxazolyl, 3-methoxy-5-isoxazolyl, 3-ethoxy-5-isoxazolyl, and 3-methyl-5-isoxazolyl.

8. (currently amended) A compound of Claim 1 selected from:



R^4	$C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$	R^2	R^3
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
CH_3	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F

R^4	$C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$	R^2	R^3
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
CH_2CN	CH_3	CH	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	Cl
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	Cl
	~~CH_3~~	~~Cl~~	~~Cl~~
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
CF_3	CF_2H	H	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F

R^4	$C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$	R^2	R^3
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
CH_2CH_3	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
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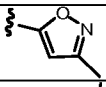
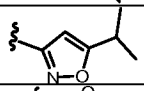
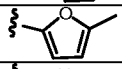
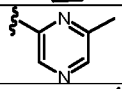
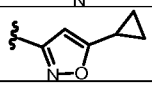
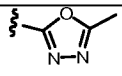
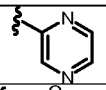
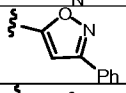
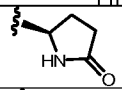
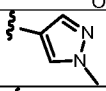
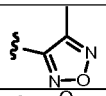
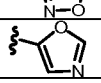
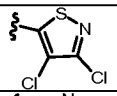
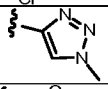
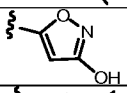
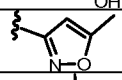
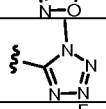
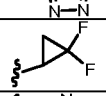
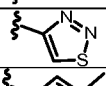
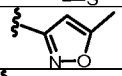
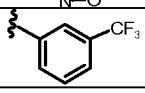
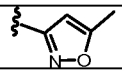
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
CF_3	CH_3	H	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	~~CF_3~~	~~Cl~~	~~Cl~~

R^4	$C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$	R^2	R^3
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
CH_3	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	Cl
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	Cl
	CH_3	Cl	F
$CClF_2$	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_3	Cl	Cl
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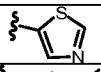
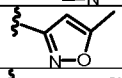
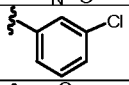
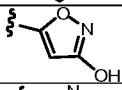
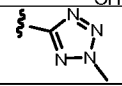
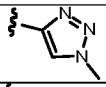
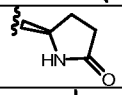
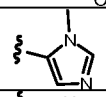
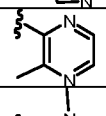
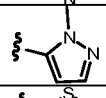
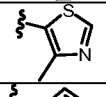
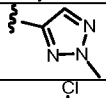
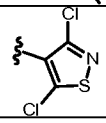
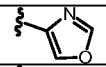
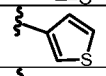
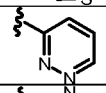
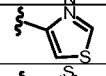
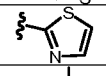
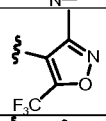
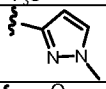
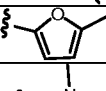
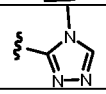
$CH(CH_3)_2$	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F

R^4	$C(R^{1a})(R^{1b})(R^{1c})$	R^2	R^3
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
CHF_2	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CF_2H	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F
	CH_3	Cl	F

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

9. (original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. canceled